

FISCAL NOTE

SB 322 - HB 344

April 3, 2005

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) tests to be administered during the last three weeks of the school term, on a date or dates determined by the local board of education. Currently, the TCAP achievement tests (3-8) are given during a three week period beginning the last week of March through the first two weeks of April to ensure that individual scores are back by May 31 so they may be forwarded to the LEAs.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures - Exceeds \$100,000*

Assumptions:

- The turn around time for scoring the tests would not be moved back from current requirements but would remain the same.
- The bill addresses only the TCAP achievement tests.
- The Department of Education estimates that the additional scanners and additional temporary staff positions were already in place in order to meet the May 31 deadline of having the tests scored. Therefore, the impact on state government is estimated to be not significant.
- If TCAP tests were administered within the last three-week period of school, LEAs would likely need to hire temporary central office staff to assist with delivery, editing, and the return of test materials.
- A later testing window may also require the LEAs to extend contracts for key staff at each school, such as a principal or guidance counselor until verification that all test materials have been returned to the central office.
- The return of test results after the last day of school may also require additional LEA staff time during the summer to see that student results are properly stored or forwarded.
- Delays in test reporting to parents, collecting summary data for the upcoming school year, the evaluation of the school's annual yearly progress and the identification of on-notice or on-probation schools may be delayed.

Details of the estimate are shown below:

Local Govt. Expenditures - LEAs:

Temporary central office staff to assist with delivery/editing/returning of test materials.

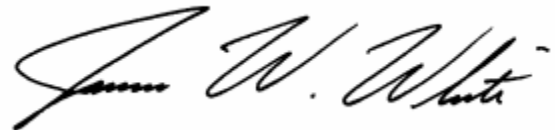
School staff to assist in returning and/or forwarding of test materials (Metro-Davidson County estimates a cost of \$48,000 to handle the requirements of the bill.) If the other three largest systems of Memphis City Schools, Knox County and Hamilton County had similar expenses, the increase in costs could exceed \$192,000.

Therefore, it is estimated that the combined increase in local government costs would exceed \$100,000 statewide.

*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director